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Time was when every window frame in sight was white, or unsightly aluminium!

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Rest assured that any investment in Timber Windows will help to restore the real value of your home!

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MK NEWS

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Meet kind-hearted marathon runner

SEE **PAGE 4**

Caked in smiles at theatre panto

SEE **PAGE 28**

MK DONS spread some festive cheer at the children's ward of Milton Keynes University Hospital last Wednesday. Players David Martin, Diego Poyet, Lee Hodson and Jordan Spence delivered presents and Toys R Us gift vouchers, paid for by the first-team squad. ■ See more pictures at **mkweb.co.uk**

'Give estates a say'

BY JAMES AVERILL
james.averill@mk-news.co.uk

RESIDENTS have urged Milton Keynes Council to ensure they get a say on how seven 'deprived' city estates are regenerated.

The authority has announced it will enter a partnership with Mears Group PLC to carry out the regeneration of the estates – Beanhill, North Bradville, Coffee Hall, Fullers Slade, Lakes Estate, Netherfield and Tinkers Bridge.

Although the council has assured residents the schemes will be 'community led', some still fear they may not be given a voice.

Residents of Tinkers Bridge are even starting a petition seeking assurances their estate won't be knocked down.

John Orr, of the estate's residents' association, said: "It's important that the council really listens to what residents want."

The partnership will deliver repairs and maintenance for nearly 11,500 council homes and regenerate key areas in Milton Keynes that are in the greatest need over a 15-year period.

Jeanette Marling, chairman of the Lakes Estate Residents' Association, said: "We need improvements in the general conditions of the estate and the living environment.

"They would like some decent shops so it's easier for healthy eating and we would like work that leads to more jobs in the area."

The partnership says it will work with each community to develop regeneration plans on a 'bespoke basis' and not use a 'one size fits all' approach.

Councillor Hannah O'Neill, cabinet member for housing and regeneration, said she is keen to assure residents they will not be left out.

Cllr O'Neill, who represents many of the affected areas in her Woughton ward, said: "In terms of work happening on the ground we could be talking about four or five years, but before that there's going to be an awful lot of engagement. This is down to the communities, they will be leading and shaping the future of their estates."

Alan Long, executive director for Mears, added: "Our experience tells us the best solutions are found when we carefully listen to the community and act upon what we learn."

RESIDENTS' VIEWS

Brian Walker: "Coffee Hall has been allowed to deteriorate by the council, but it just needs a bit of tidying up."

John Orr: "We're terrified that they will just knock the estate down. Despite the assurances of officers and councillors, I fear this is nothing more than an exercise in social cleansing."

Marc Whelan: "A lot of these estates were built as temporary housing for the workers that were building MK in the 60's. There's an urgent need to bring these places up to a liveable 21st century standard."

Mel Davis-Bell: "A community is not about how nice the houses look, or how people present themselves. I lived in Beanhill and have to say the sense of community was far greater than that of other estates I lived on."

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Marathon runner with a big heart

A MOTHER-OF-TWO from Broughton has run more than 2,015 miles this year to raise money for the British Heart Foundation (BHF) – the equivalent of more than 78 marathons.

Jennifer Sangster, 41, a business manager at Santander, was inspired to undertake the challenge for the bank's charity of the year by her godson Jacob, who had two major heart operations at Great Ormond Street Hospital.

To date, she has raised more than £1,600 and completed 2,179 miles by running half, full and ultra-marathons across the country.

Jennifer said: "It has been an incredible year and I am so proud of the distance I have covered and the funds I have raised for such an important charity.

"My friends and family all think I'm a nutter for how much I run – my husband Andy just doesn't understand! But they are all really supportive and I probably could not have done it without them.

"I enjoy doing something to raise money for the charity and feeling like I'm making a difference."

In the London Marathon in April, Jennifer set a personal best time of three hours, 18 minutes and earned a Guinness World Record for the fastest marathon dressed as a love heart.

She then went on to run the Milton Keynes Marathon eight days later, her third that month.

To complete the final miles of the challenge, Jennifer took on the Cardiff Half Marathon and again achieved a personal best time.

But rather than resting after a gruelling year, Jennifer is already setting herself even greater challenges for 2016.

She added: "Next year, I'm going to go one better and challenge myself to run four marathons in four weeks!"

New challenge: Jennifer Sangster plans to run four marathons in four weeks next year after clocking up over 2,000 miles in 2015

Concern over threat to day care centre

BY SARAH LEE
editor@mk-news.co.uk

A DAY care centre for pensioners and vulnerable people may face closure in the latest round of budget cuts.

Residents fear that the Kitchener Centre in Olney, currently run by Milton Keynes Council (MKC), will be shut by the authority in a bid to save £100,000 a year in its 2016/17 budget.

Kevin Viney, of Olney, whose 94-year-old father uses the day care centre, said the Kitchener serves as a lifeline to the elderly who are physically frail, have a poor memory or have dementia.

He added: "Milton Keynes Council is proposing to secure a replacement purpose-built centre in Simpson, but this would mean that vulnerable residents would be expected to travel a long way to use the service.

"The centre in Olney is purposely built for caring for the elderly.

"I really don't see why it should be closed or moved to another and maybe less suitable building far away from home comforts."

A spokesman for Olney Town Council, which wants the centre to remain open, said: "We are arguing that it will only take three patients to be overawed by the journey and seek residential care to waste the £100k MKC wishes to save."

Olney resident, Carole Briggs, added: "It's crazy. My husband has early onset Alzheimer's and I'm sure in the not-so-distant future he may need the services of this local centre. Closing it is isolating needy people more and more. Disgusting."

Nigel Long, cabinet member for health and adult social care at MKC, said: "We are still working through the details regarding the Kitchener Centre but the idea is to create a modern hub for OAP day care in the south of Milton Keynes – the Simpson option – or to develop a similar hub around the centre in Olney.

"It is currently a matter for further discussion."

This news comes after elderly people across Milton Keynes were sent letters stating that the council had proposed to 'no longer provide sheltered housing officer support' in all sheltered housing. This plan is now under review.

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What would you like to see in the city centre?
letters@mk-news.co.uk

Artists behind piazza project

BY SCOTT KIRK
scott.kirk@mk-news.co.uk

TWO artists are looking into ideas to bring the centre of Milton Keynes alive, with a piazza at the Theatre District high among their plans.

Artists Gareth Jones, from Milton Keynes, and Nils Norman are drawing up ways to complement the MK Gallery expansion, which is due to take place over the next couple of years.

They are taking inspiration for their City Club project from the original Milton Keynes Development Corporation plan in the 1970s and believe the centre could benefit greatly from a community area.

A playground at the back of the expanded gallery has also been touted, as well as a planted area to the front of the building.

"The original plans are futuristic and showed how you might spend your free time, so we have taken our inspiration from that," said Mr Jones.

"We have been looking at bringing back those ideas and elements from the original designs and based it around a piazza, garden and play area to form connections between the gallery and theatre and other areas.

"It would also very much be a space for programmes and activities so that it would be well used.

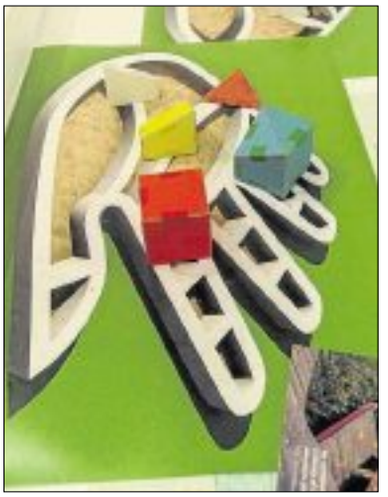
"It's a big project and there is a lot of interest – we want to be positive about what can happen and what can change.

"Our idea is to look again at how to create public spaces in the city centre."

The plans are at a very early stage, with no money set aside for implementing the project, but a talk held by the artists at the gallery earlier this month was attended by nearly 100 people, which Mr Jones believes shows a huge appetite for a community space in the city.

"There is absolutely an appetite for this and City Club is a space for everyone.

"There is a process of discussion which you have to have but you need something on the table to begin with."



Community space: Two artists are looking at ideas to complement the MK Gallery expansion

MKNEWS BRIEFS

Charity of the Year

THERE is only one week left for MK NEWS readers to choose who they would like to see as this paper's charity of the year for 2016. Vote before Tuesday via onemk.co.uk or by post to 1 Diamond Court, Fox Milne, MK15 0DU.

Record breaking

FROSTS Garden Centre's Winter Wonderland has had its most successful year yet. More than 28,000 people visited Santa's grotto, over 16,000 people have been ice-skating and nearly 80,000 people visited the Woburn Sands centre, enjoying 7,892 mince pies and 3,400 litres of mulled wine.

Christmas babies

MILTON Keynes University Hospital enjoyed the arrival of seven babies on Christmas Day. Read more about them at **onemk.co.uk**

Man is charged with Christmas arsons

A MAN has been charged in connection with a number of arson offences on Christmas Day.

Corey Daniel King, 23, of no fixed address, has been charged with three counts of arson. The charges are in connection with a fire on October 9 in Blundells Road, Bradville. He was also charged with arson following two fires on Christmas Day evening in Briar Hill, Stacey Bushes.

Mr King was charged on Boxing Day and appeared at Milton Keynes Magistrates' Court on Monday. The case was adjourned until January 4.

Hoverboards are recalled

A NUMBER of hoverboards sold by major retailers such as Argos, Tesco and John Lewis have been recalled.

Hoverboards were a popular Christmas present this year, but there are concerns some could be unsafe as there is a risk of fire and explosion due to poor design and construction.

Customers who have bought one of the recalled hoverboards are urged to stop using it immediately and return it to the retailer. Those who are unsure whether their board has been recalled are advised to ring the retailer.

For a full list of the recalled hoverboards, visit **onemk.co.uk**

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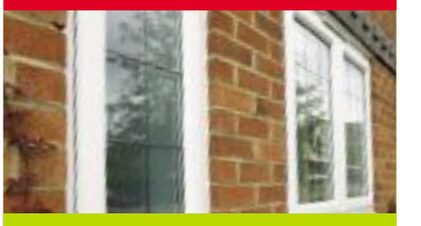

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MK NEWS is proud to be the truly local newspaper for Milton Keynes and the surrounding areas. We provide the most widely read local newspaper for our readers and advertisers and are constantly looking at new ways to improve our service. If you have feedback for us, please contact anyone listed below

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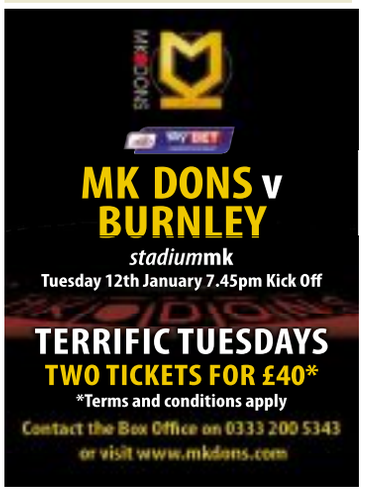

MK LETTERS

Letters to The Editor, MK NEWS, 1 Diamond Court, Fox Milne, Milton Keynes MK15 0DU

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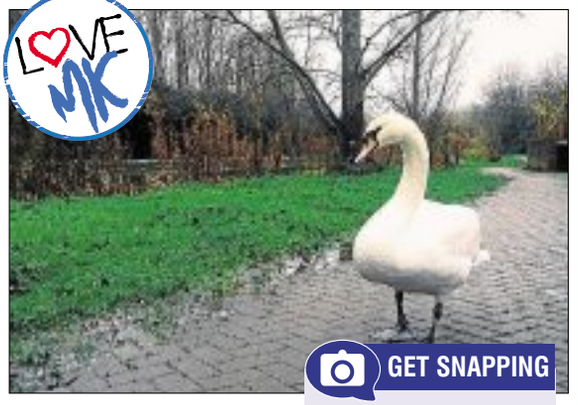
AS REPORTED in last week's MK NEWS, police front counters in Bletchley, Newport Pagnell and Wolverton will close next year. You have been telling us what you think to the move. Here are some of your comments...

Emily Ann Kent: "Absolute rubbish. It will have an affect on the public.
These stations are in the heart of the community. Officers will have to walk/cycle from CMK to get to places like old Wolverton.
That means towards the end of a shift they will be making their way back to the station, leaving their patch sooner."
Paul MK: "I am very disappointed to hear this news that, as far as I am aware, comes without any consultation.
"Having a police station at the heart of the community lends a visible presence and reassurance to the public.
For people who rely on public transport, or do not have access to the internet, having an accessible police station in times of need is important.
"Bletchley has the highest population of over 65s in Milton Keynes and these people will now have to make a journey into CMK rather than just go down the road to their local station."
David Jones: "It's a silly idea to close the counters to the public as lots of people feel safer going to the counter and speaking to someone, especially if a crime has just happened.
Also Bletchley is easier for a lot of elderly people to get to than the others."
Margaret McCracken Hogg: Bletchley needs a police station. The town is getting larger by the day.
If we need to talk to the police it means phoning miles away to get through, then they put you through to CMK, then eventually to Bletchley.
Too late after an accident, or if you see a fight or a burglary.
We need an active police force here. We are such a big place – now please reconsider the closure.
Rob Woollett: "Absolutely stupid. How much goes to foreign aid?
This country really needs to sort this mess out."
Helen Ward: "Very sad news."

Join in with debate on our Facebook page at **facebook.com/onemknews**

Send photo for a prize



This week's photograph of a swan going for a stroll in Springfield was taken by James Reynolds

Send us your favourite pictures of Milton Keynes by emailing:
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HERE at MK NEWS we know the lovely pictures you send in put a smile on our readers' faces so we have joined forces with the award-winning Comedy Cow to keep you smiling.
Each week we will be giving two free tickets to upcoming events in one of the club's three venues across MK to the reader who sends in the best picture of our city.
Winners can use their tickets to choose from a host of stars coming to Milton Keynes.
For details on The Comedy Cow's future events visit www.thecomedycow.co.uk

Landmark: The intu shopping centre Midsummer Oak will be replaced early in the new year

Bandstand to replace oak tree

THE intu shopping centre Midsummer Oak tree – a city landmark declared 'dead' in March – is to be removed.

There are plans to replace it with a community bandstand early in the new year.

A spokesman for intu said: "Our plans are to create a community bandstand in Oak Court that will allow for entertainment, arts, performances and for children to use and enjoy while providing a greater experience for our customers."

Pervert caught in sting is jailed

BY COURT REPORTER
editor@mk-news.co.uk

A PERVERT who thought he was meeting a 14-year-old girl to have sex with her has been jailed for 16 months – after he was caught in a sting operation by a group of paedophile hunters.

Craig Chapman, 35, turned up in the car park outside the Asda store in Dunstable thinking he was meeting the teenager he knew as Kelly.

Chapman had been talking to 'Kelly' online and told her he wanted to have sex with her and they'd exchanged photos of each other.

But Luton Crown Court heard last Wednesday that Kelly didn't exist, but was the 'bait' being used by a group known as Anonymous – which had been set up to expose predatory men trawling through internet chat rooms and social media sites looking for under age children to sexually abuse.

As a result Chapman got out of his car and outside the store was confronted not by a teenage girl, but the vigilante group of adults. He was detained by the group and the police were called.

Chapman, of Farnborough, Netherfield, was convinced he was talking to a female and, at first, the conversation between them was normal.

But when he learned she was a '14-year-old schoolgirl,' he moved the conversation towards sex and, in communications, spoke of having sex with her.

At the court he pleaded guilty to a charge of attempting to meet a girl under 16 following grooming.

Judge Michael Kay QC said it was 'apparent that even now Chapman wasn't accepting the seriousness of his behaviour'.

He jailed him for 16 months telling him that on his release he will be on licence and will go on a sex offenders programme.

He will also have his name on the sex offenders register for the next 10 years.

Watch Chapman being caught on camera – onemk.co.uk

Man guilty of sex offence with girl

A MAN has been convicted of engaging in sexual activity with a child after contact with her on social media.

Kelan Wright, 21, of Granby Court, Bletchley, was found guilty on December 18 of one count of engaging in sexual activity with a girl, following a three-day trial at Aylesbury Crown Court.

Wright developed a relationship on social media with the victim, a 14-year-old, during spring and summer last year.

On August 21, 2014, he made arrangements for them to meet up and took her back to his flat in Bletchley where he engaged in sexual activity with her.

Wright was arrested on September 27 and was charged with the offence on May 2, 2015.

Investigating officer Det Con Kim McHugh, from Milton Keynes Force CID, said: "Wright has been convicted of committing a serious sexual offence against a child after befriending her on social media.

"By pleading not guilty, Wright subjected the young victim to going through the process of giving evidence in court.

"The victim has shown courage throughout the proceedings and I commend her for supporting the case, which has resulted in the conviction of Wright.

"This case is a reminder of the dangers of social media – do you know who your child is speaking to online?

"Thames Valley Police will work to pursue those who offend, to provide support to victims and to ensure offenders are brought to justice."

Wright is due to be sentenced at Aylesbury Crown Court on January 22.

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Inside panto stars' home

MK NEWS took a sneak peek at the apartments where some of the stars of Aladdin have been staying during its run at Milton Keynes Theatre.

Ben Adams, Wayne Sleep, Aimie Atkinson and Marc Pickering have been enjoying a home-from-home in the serviced apartments run by Cotels, which they say have enabled them to relax a bit more because they are staying so close to the theatre.

Wayne Sleep, who is playing the Genie of the Ring, added: "I have done over 25 pantomimes but these are the best digs I have ever had."

■ Find out where else the stars have been in Milton Keynes at **onemk.co.uk**

Aladdin: Pantomime stars and Cotels staff inside one of the apartments. See more pictures at onemk.co.uk/news

Light shines on recycling duo

BY JESSICA DUNCAN
jessica.duncan@mk-news.co.uk

THE owners of a recycling service have been recognised by the Prime Minister for their work helping the community – after appearing on prime time TV over Christmas.

John and Margaret Mann set up the Re-Use Community Project in 2006 – the first scheme of its kind in the UK, which stores abandoned furniture, clothes and toys and redistributes them to people in need.

Despite facing closure earlier this year after almost losing its home, the service, which operates from a warehouse in Kiln Farm, was able to remain open following support from MK NEWS and residents.

Now the pair, *pictured below*, have received a Point of Light award from David Cameron, who said: "Through their tireless work to build up partnerships in their community, Margaret and John have recycled or reused thousands of items that would have otherwise gone to waste and used them to make a difference in the lives of thousands of people in their local area."

In a joint statement Margaret and John added:"Our goal in life is to open a Re-Use Community Project in every city in the country, fighting against poverty, hardship and being at one with our community for a brighter future."

The news follows the duo receiving a new van from Hitachi when they appeared on ITV's Surprise Surprise on Boxing Day. In a video, which was shown on the programme, one user said: "Every town needs a John and Margaret."

MKNEWS BRIEFS

Lloyds Court plans

PLANNING officers at Milton Keynes Council have recommended a refurbishment of Lloyds Court is approved. A decision is due to be made on the CMK shopping complex on January 7 by councillors.

Book shop saved

THE Little Bookshop in Great Linford has been saved thanks to a £1,064 donation from community-minded residents. Read more on this story at **mkweb.co.uk**

Garden fire

FIREFIGHTERS tackled a garden fire in Warwick Road, Bletchley, at 9pm on Boxing Day. Heat and smoke damage was caused to a house.

Learn about tech over tea

OLDER residents wanting to learn how to use their latest Christmas gadgets are invited to attend free tech and tea sessions.

Hosted by ATTIGO, a computer and internet training company based in the city, events will be held in Walnut Tree, Olney, Shenley Church End, and Loughton on January 19 and 26 and February 4 and 11. Free one-to-one advice will be available from an ATTIGO trainer and guidance will be offered on computer and internet basics.

For more details email enquiries@attigo-training.com or call 0844 3721545.

Council tax 'rose by 51.9pc'

TAXPAYERS in Milton Keynes pay nearly £800 more a year in council tax than they did less than 20 years ago, according to new research.

TaxPayers' Alliance figures show the tax on an average property in the city increased by £793.78 between 1996-97 and 2015-16 – a rise of 51.9 per cent.

The council tax on a Band D property in Milton Keynes in 1996/1997 was £657.13, whereas in 2015/2016 it is £1,450.91.

Jonathan Isaby, chief executive of the TaxPayers' Alliance, said: "Council tax is a huge burden on hard-pressed families and rates have continued to climb for decades as local authorities massively overspent."

Adoption information evening: Wednesday 6th Jan 2016 6.30pm-8.00pm

Venue: SFCS, Collis House, 48 Newport Road, Woolstone, Milton Keynes, MK15 0AA

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Soldiers will be going into battle

BY JAMES AVERILL
james.averill@mk-news.co.uk

HUNDREDS of soldiers are set to re-enact the English Civil War in a major weekend of events next year.

Pitched battles between hundreds of King Charles I's Cavaliers and Oliver Cromwell's Roundheads are due to take place in Bury Field, Newport Pagnell, over the August Bank Holiday weekend.

Richard Meredith, chairman of the Newport Pagnell Civil War Weekend committee, donned a 17th century costume to sign an agreement with The English Civil War Society (ECWS), which will be staging the spectacular battles.

ECWS director Ian MacDonald Watson said: "The Newport Pagnell battle is scheduled to be one of our major events of 2016, with around 500 re-enactors including foot soldiers, cavalry and artillery due to take part, plus an encampment and living history display."

ECWS director James Addy, and his wife Vivienne, also in costume, signed for the society in The Swan Revived Hotel, which was the site of an inn during the Civil War.

Signed: Richard Meredith, *left*, with James and Vivienne Addy

Richard said: "The Civil War Weekend will be a major event for the town and it seemed fitting to get in the spirit and properly mark our agreement with the ECWS."

Plans for a re-enactment in Newport Pagnell, which was a significant 'garrison town' in the conflict, have been in the pipeline for nearly three years – when a new book by Richard revealed how much of an affinity Oliver Cromwell had for the town. It's said that he even fought alongside his troops there and sent his son to fight in the town as well.

Plans for The Civil War Weekend will be officially announced by the Town Crier at the Town Clock in High Street on January 9.

If you would like to help or be a sponsor call Richard on 07980 286992, or email ricmeredith@hotmail.com

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Tokens of thanks

ARLA dairy co-operative farmers handed out Christmas gifts at the centre:mk to thank the public for its support.

Money-off vouchers were handed out to encourage more consumers to get behind British dairy farmers.

A YouGov poll has revealed almost two thirds of consumers (60 per cent) would pay extra for dairy products to have the money go back to farmers.

New homes plan causes concern

BY SCOTT KIRK
scott.kirk@mk-news.co.uk

WORRIES over traffic, flood defences and the strain on doctors and school services have been by raised by residents protesting against new housing to the south of the city.

Gallagher Estates has submitted a plan for 1,800 homes between Eaton Leys and Little Brickhill, which includes a local centre, two primary schools, two pedestrian and cycle bridges crossing the River Ouzel and a children's playground.

It is the second major development proposed for the area following Milton Keynes South West Consortium's plans for 1,800 homes on land neighbouring Bletchley and Newton Longville.

Liz Rawlinson, chairman of the Mill Residents' Association, which covers one area of Bletchley, said the new plan needed to considered in conjunction with the other.

She told a meeting of Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council: "This is nothing to do with nimbyism – we fully accept that homes are needed, but the question is whether this is an appropriate place.

"There are deep and real concerns about what these developments mean for Bletchley residents."

The town council voted to set up a working group to work with Milton Keynes Council, Aylesbury Vale District Council, residents' associations and other outside groups before deciding on whether to support the scheme.

MK NEWS contacted Gallagher but it declined to comment.

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Cloudy2Clear service the Bedford, Milton Keynes & Leighton Buzzard areas and Billy is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Billy a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118** and he'll be happy to help!

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FROSTS ...naturally

Little Henry trials a new treatment

BY SCOTT KIRK
scott.kirk@mk-news.co.uk

A BOY who suffers with haemophilia is the first in Europe to try a 'life-changing' treatment that is helping improve his condition.

Henry King, 18 months, has a severe form of haemophilia, which is a condition where the blood does not clot properly and can lead to excessive internal and external bleeding.

As part of the treatment, a 'port' has been inserted into Henry's chest that is connected directly to one of his blood vessels. This means when he has his weekly injection at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford, his blood can clot at a much better rate.

"He's a really rare case of haemophilia," said dad Mike, of Wadesmill Lane, Walton Park.

"The treatment has been life-changing and it will give him more options in life.

"He's a real test case – the treatment moves him from the severest form of haemophiliac to a more moderate one, which is amazing."

Redway Runner Mike, 40, who himself has diabetes, is taking part in the London Marathon to raise awareness of haemophilia and money for the Haemophilia Society. So far he has raised £450 towards a target of £2,000.

He added: "I want to raise awareness about this often really misunderstood condition. We want to show him that he can do whatever he wants and we don't want him to be treated differently."

If you wish to donate, go to http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/MikeKing5

A rare case: Henry King with dad his Mike

HAEMOPHILIA FACTFILE

- **Also known as Christmas Disease as the first patient was called Stephen Christmas.**
- **Haemophiliacs don't have a blood protein called Factor IX, which helps the blood to clot.**
- **There are about 6,000 people with haemophilia in the UK. Most of these are males because of the way the condition is inherited.**
- **It's called 'the royal disease' because two of Queen Victoria's five daughters passed the haemophilia gene to their descendents.**

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Put through her paces: Reporter Jessica Duncan with Ruel DeCosta

Getting over set by 'Ninja

ONE of the first obstacle gyms of its kind in the UK has opened in Milton Keynes.

Paramount Parkour Academy in the Kingston Centre is already known for its parkour classes – also known as free running – but owner, 30-year-old Ruel DeCosta, has now set up obstacle course lessons.

Ruel, from Shenley Brook End, said: "The classes will take people through techniques and help them be efficient and fast, but also less likely to injure themselves. More and more people are taking part in Tough Mudder-style events and many do them for charity but just train by running or going to a normal gym. This means they do not learn how to climb a wall, use ropes or monkey bars.

"The obstacle classes are also a different way to get fit while having fun. In many normal gym exercises people don't use their hands or hold their own body weight, but many of

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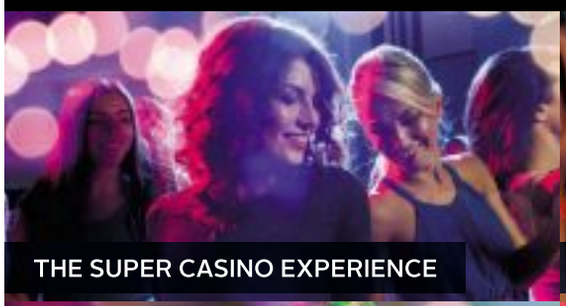

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obstacles Warrior'

these fun run courses are based around this."

The obstacle gyms with cargo nets, ropes and rings are huge in America and were the inspiration behind the TV programme Ninja Warrior, which became popular with a UK version aired on ITV in April.

As previously reported, Ruel is Milton Keynes' very own Ninja Warrior, appearing on the programme and continuing to take part in different competitions.

He gave reporter Jessica Duncan a taste of one of his obstacle classes by putting her through her paces.

Ruel added: "Ninja Warrior has definitely changed the Obstacle Course Race (OCR) world.

"The current female OCR UK champion trains here and I am also taking the classes out to schools as you don't see gym classes like this anymore."

■ **To see the videos and for a gallery of pictures visit www.onemk.co.uk**

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Marathon: Runners for Team Rogan

£70k raised for

The X Factor: Sam Bailey at the fundraising ball in the summer

A CHARITY that helps children suffering from a rare condition has exceeded expectations and raised more than £70,000 this year – thanks to support from MK NEWS and OneMK.

The Hope For Hollie Foundation has featured regularly in this newspaper and its website since readers voted for it to be our charity of 2015.

Helen Carter set up the foundation after her daughter Hollie, now 10, was diagnosed with Niemann-Pick Type C (NP-C).

As well as raising awareness of the metabolic condition, the charity is now a grant-making organisation supporting affected families.

Helen said: "For a small charity like ourselves it is invaluable to get such coverage and we are extremely grateful to the paper and its readers for their support.

"All the events this year have really helped to spread awareness.

"We have raised more than £71,000, which has exceeded our expectations and enabled us to support a family liaison officer role for another 12 months, which makes a real difference to the families we support.

"We have also issued more than 10 grants for special equipment for children and

Find more on The Hope For Hollie Foundation at: www.onemk.co.uk

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Family photo: Pete and Helen Carter with children Josh, Hollie and Lucas

charity of 2015

Sky dive: Reporter Jessica Duncan took the charity to new heights

continue to fund research for a cure."

Highlights of the year for the charity have included X Factor winner Sam Bailey's support and performance at the summer Best of British -themed fundraising ball at DoubleTree by Hilton.

Reporter Jessica Duncan also joined a team of fund-raisers who took part in a sky dive at Hinton Skydiving Centre, raising more than £12,000.

Awareness was also spread at the Milton Keynes Marathon and through a short film made by Carl Mason, a 17-year-old film-maker from Shenley Brook End, which has now had more than 200,000 views.

The film – available on **onemk.co.uk** – follows the story of Millie, a little girl who dreams of being a dancer yet suffers from NP-C.

Helen added: "We have had people come up to us and say they remember the charity after seeing the articles in MK NEWS and on OneMK.

"For 2016, we have got our charity ball in April. Hope is on the horizon."

■ To vote for MK NEWS and OneMK's charity of the year for 2016 visit onemk.co.uk or post your suggestion to 1 Diamond Court, Fox Milne, MK15 0DU by January 5.

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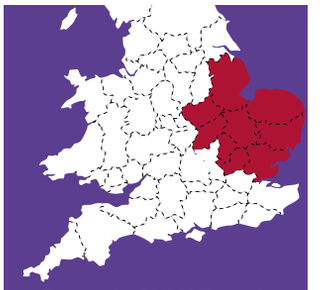

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female seeking

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SALLY, 39yrs seeks doesn't want to be lonely this xmas. Seeks gent any age/looks unimportant must have GSOH. **Box: 4186657. Text only.**

EMMA pretty 30yr old Scottish lassie, new to the area and looking for some nice company, give me a call and we can take it from there. **Tel No: 0906 515 4426 Box No: 420353**

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3000 Box 419673**

ALI, 35, slim-build, fit, brown hair, blue eyes, GSOH, loving and caring, very genuine, n/s, enjoys swimming and walking my dog, looking for a similar n/s guy for friendship/LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 4426 Box No: 420373**

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

DISCREET man wanted by married lady for no strings fun. I'm called Sarah and am 37yrs. Pls call, ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 3004 Box 418167**

DIVORCED female, 55, seeks easy going male in Chelmsford area between 55 and 65. Must be non-smoker, have own car and house. **Text only to mailbox no: 5345180**

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. **Tel: No: 0906 515 3008 Box: 409715**

JEAN,44, professional nurse attractive and all woman! loves wining and dining seeking white knight who appreciates a real black beauty. **Tel No: 0906 515 4426 Box No: 420351**

MAUREEN, discreet sensual lady, 42yrs seeks daytime fun at her home. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3012 Box: 405297**

JENNY, 40, very feminine attractive mature classy female with beautiful blue eyes, looking for male to enjoy plenty of laughs and get to know. **Tel No: 0906 515 4426 Box No: 420349**

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. **Tel: 0906 515 3016 Box: 413399**

ALISON, five foot seven, slim build, brown hair and blue eyes, caring and loyal, likes swimming, walking dog, fun to be with, looking for a genuine caring guy, age not important, for friendship possible LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 4426 Box No: 420087**

FELICITY, 38yrs, attractive, petite but shapely lady seeks gent for in-door activities! Age/looks/marital status unimportant but must be discreet and non demanding. **Tel: 0906 515 3020 Box 420235**

LUCY, 32, blonde, tall and slim, looking for a casual fling, nothing serious. Discretion needed and assured. **Tel No: 0906 515 4426 Box No: 420237**

CHLOE, pretty brunette, 30yrs good job but lacking male with a naughty side, is that you, age unimportant. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4057558**

SUSIE tactile 33yr old female who loves fast cars and motorbikes, seeks genuine male prepared to live life in the fast lane, 35-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 4426 Box No: 420205**

MELANIE, tanned, tonned, young 41yrs divorcee with own flat, working, solvent, just missing a chap. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4112160**

PRETTY slim female with long brown hair, fit and active seeks fit older male for energetic relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 4426 Box No: 416497**

VAL, 45, compassionate outgoing female with a big heart and no preconceptions just looking for love with similar minded male. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 4426 Box No: 420193**

MARIANNE, 38, slim, sporty, fun with good personality, loves travel, holding hands and caring for people. Seeks genuine male, no time wasters. **Tel No: 0906 515 4426 Box No: 420173**

DEBBIE, 43, dark haired passionate classy, discreet female looking for professional intelligent male wanting mutual companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 4426 Box No: 420071**

EMMIE 28yr old lonely single mum all out of love, looking for good company with male who can tame a confident beautiful sensual lady. **Tel No: 0906 515 4426 Box No: 420041**

LOVING, caring, black professional female, late 40's, WLTM a professional, caring, N/S male, 41-52, 5ft 10ins plus with Christian values for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 4426 Box No: 119332**

JENNY, 65, likes fishing and camping, seaside, gardening, animals, looking for a male between 55-80, in Milton Keynes or surrounding areas. **Tel No: 0906 515 4426 Box No: 419553**

DIANE successful feisty business women, confident, fun, chatty, positive, social with everything but that special someone in her life and WLTM him. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 4426 Box No: 420001**

ELAINE, 51, new to this, free spirited petite blonde, feminine and all women, seeks romantic male who enjoys good times, fun and passion. **Tel No: 0906 515 4426 Box No: 419849**

DENISE attractive 30's female, sincere warm-hearted romantic, looking for male to enjoy pamper treats, hotel retreats and lots lots more! **Tel No: 0906 515 4426 Box No: 419837**

DIANE 37, romantic, sentimental, loves to be pampered, WLTM similar gent for mutual spoiling with lots of TLC. **Tel No: 0906 515 4426 Box No: 419819**

CARING, loving, friendly, sincere female with a GSOH, seeks a genuine male 60-70, for friendship and long-term relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 4426 Box No: 419805**

TANNED toned red haired temptress. Now I have your attention! If you are a little bit naughty looking for someone very nice, call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 4426 Box No: 419611**

JENNY 56, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 4426 Box No: 418437**

SARAH, 37, beautiful broadminded female, seeks similar open-minded hunky guy for fun/ friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 4426 Box No: 418167**

LIKE uniforms? Sexy, foxy nurse, green eyes, up for anything seeks naughty, imaginative, laid back guy to get to know. **Tel No: 0906 515 4426 Box No: 419577**

ANN 40's female looking for male for broadminded adult fun, no strings. **Tel No: 0906 515 4426 Box No: 412369**

CLAIRE young 39, beautiful slim blonde, fun loving and sensual seeks similar spontaneous male for fun, excitement, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 4426 Box No: 419613**

CARING, loving, good to be with female, enjoys swimming, walking my dog, having fun, good sense of humour seeks similar male. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5063098**

LORRAINE single mum new to the area starting again, OHAC, GSOH, WLTM nice guy to cuddle up with and appreciate, maybe more. Single dad welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 4426 Box No: 419415**

ANN 40's female looking for male for broadminded adult fun, no strings. **Tel No: 0906 515 4426 Box No: 412369**

SUE, lovely sensual brunette, young 50, seeks adventurous, fun loving, tactile younger male who thinks he can keep up. **Tel No: 0906 515 4426 Box No: 419381**

DEBRA, tall busty female, endless legs, enjoys wild side of life, seeks confident male to try new things with. **Tel No: 0906 515 4426 Box No: 419379**

LOVING, caring, black professional female, late 40's, WLTM a professional, caring, N/S male, 41-52, 5ft 10ins plus with Christian values for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 4426 Box No: 119332**

BECKY 23, classy blonde, long blonde hair, blue eyes seeks loving older guy to spoil and pamper her. Discretion assured/guaranteed. **Tel No: 0906 515 4426 Box No: 416233**

LIBBY 36, newly single, no hang-ups, WLTM outgoing male to wine/dine and forever be mine. Don't miss out! Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 4426 Box No: 419215**

male seeking

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MALE, 43, married, athletic, WLTM discreet female, age unimportant, for no-strings daytime companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 4426 Box No: 420251**

DAVID, 39yrs, divorced with no ties, lovely flat in spain, seeks travel companion, single mums welcome. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4112425**

JOHN, six foot one, 67, own home, WLTM a lady for friendship and maybe romance. Can accommodate. **Tel No: 0906 515 4426 Box No: 419687**

SINCERE male, 45, seeks his soul mate, 30-55, for relationship. Must be Newbury area. **Tel No: 0906 515 4426 Box No: 420137**

JASON 42, self-employed, 6ft 2ins, attractive, toned, firm, athletic, seeks daytime discreet meets with passionate fun female up to 59. **Tel No: 0906 515 4426 Box No: 413331**

IAN, 51, considered handsome, ex police, OHAC, enjoys karate, music, museums and art galleries, looking for an attractive caring, female to develop a friendship, possibly leading to more. **Tel No: 0906 515 4426 Box No: 420241**

WILLIAM, 68, n/s, GSOH, own flat, WLTM a nice lady with a GSOH to have fun with. To be a friend and a lover, and to be with for the rest of days. **Tel No: 0906 515 4426 Box No: 420181**

GENUINE, honest male, 45, wants to find his one true love, seeks lady 30-55, for relationship, must be in the Newbury area. **Tel No: 0906 515 4426 Box No: 419893**

BLACK guy, 47, 6"tall, slim and attractive seeks a large built black or white lady 38 to 55 years old. **Tel No: 0906 515 4426 Box No: 418745**

MALE, 59, xx large build, kind, caring honest, GSOH, has car and bungalow, looking for someone loving and caring, to be there for the good times and the bad times, for friendship and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 4426 Box No: 419587**

MALE 56, young outlook, smart, tall, brown hair, blue eyes, OHAC, GSOH, seeks attractive female to spoil. **Tel No: 0906 515 4426 Box No: 250044**

STEWART 47, fit, muscular, looking for no strings adult fun, any age, must be discreet. **Tel No: 0906 515 4426 Box No: 416279**

40+, 6'1 tall, black man, has a job, rents a nice house, looking for a decent curvy woman aged between 30 and 40. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4919402**

WHITE male, 50, seeks genuine, loyal, sincere black female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 4426 Box No: 413261**

JAMES single dad, fun to be around with, needs a smile put back on my face, would love to hear back from anybody who may be interested in some fun times! **Tel No: 0906 515 4426 Box No: 419121**

MALE 66, fun loving, seeks female, any age, for friendship, romance and good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 4426 Box No: 419055**

48YR old white gent, seeks black lady for LTR. Any age/looks, must be genuine. **Tel No: 0906 515 4426 Box No: 390139**

DAVID, 62 year old male, I'm genuine and sincere, I'm easygoing with a good sense of humour, animal lover. I'm seeking a well-built female age or looks not important but with a kind and caring personality for friendship and maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 4426 Box No: 418643**

57YR old white gent, seeks lady for LTR. Age/looks/nationality unimportant, must be genuine and sincere. **Tel No: 0906 515 4426 Box No: 411467**

WHITE gent 50, seeks black/Asian female for LTR, must be genuine and sincere. Age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 4426 Box No: 398563**

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DAVE 50's, occasional smoker/drinker, honest, open minded, seeking charming lady to put the love back into life. **Tel No: 0906 515 4426 Box No: 416825**

67YR old male, active, fit, likes outdoor life, seeking lady soul mate, 55-65, slim, attractive for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 4426 Box No: 418097**

PETE 55, seeking a mature lady 50 to 70 for fun times , nights out and long term relationship. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4182814**

GENUINE honest guy, 5ft 8ins, medium build, short hair, not bad looking, seeks female, 50-60, slim-medium build with GSOH, genuine and kind. **Tel No: 0906 515 4426 Box No: 359453**

MALE seeking a widow 60+ for long term relationship, nights out and fun times. I am late 50's, active and professional. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4879848**

SINGLE white male, 50, seeks genuine, sincere, black/Asian female for LTR, age unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 4426 Box No: 398569**

JOHN, young looking, world travelled kind and vibrant guy seeks NSA casual fun. Not hung up on a womans looks, size. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4844839**

gay seeking

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EDWARD, 68, six foot one, WLTM a guy, can accommodate. **Tel No: 0906 515 4426 Box No: 420145**

GAY male, tall, slim, smooth, seeks gay male 50-70 for lots of fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 4426 Box No: 419495**

MUSCULAR bi guy seeks Milton Keynes guy for weekdays fun. Milton Keynes only. **Tel No: 0906 515 4426 Box No: 419119**

GAY male 54 years old, seeks gay male 40 to 42 years old for 121 long lasting relationship. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4732986**

MUSCULAR bi guy requires daytime meets with MK guy, cannot accommodate. **Tel No: 0906 515 4426 Box No: 418149**

MATURE gay male, disabled, seeking companionship, romance, friendship, age and looks unimportant. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4635193**

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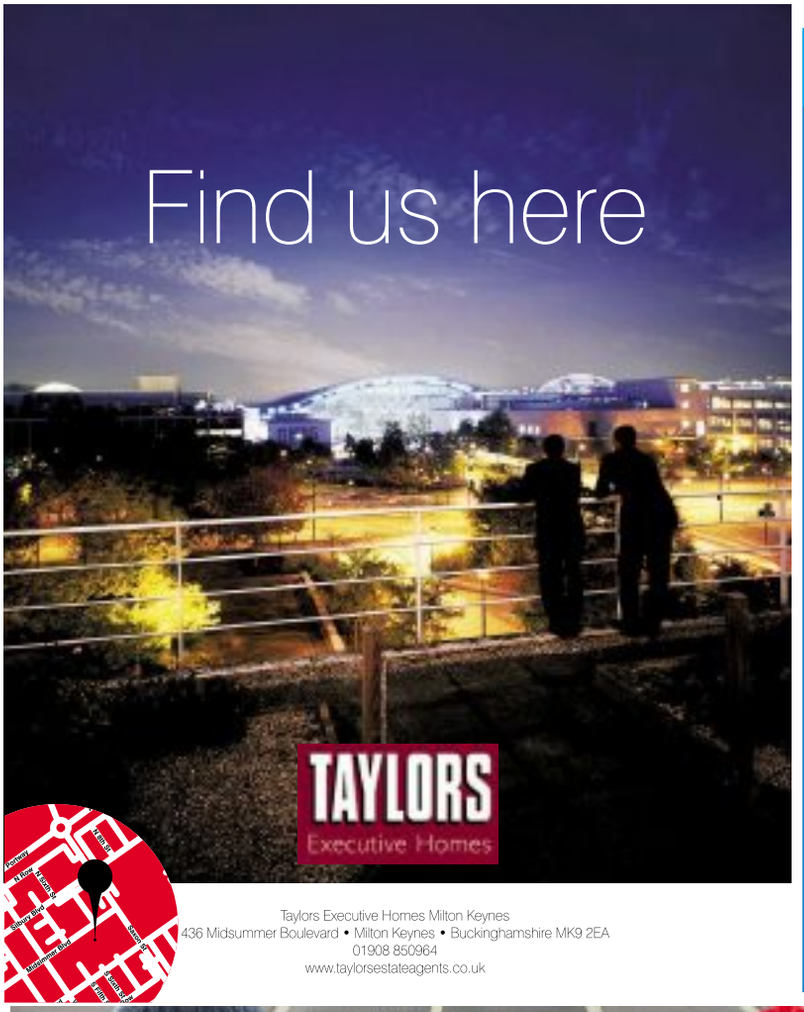

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2015: Review of the year

We continue our look back at some of the biggest stories we have covered this year.

JULY

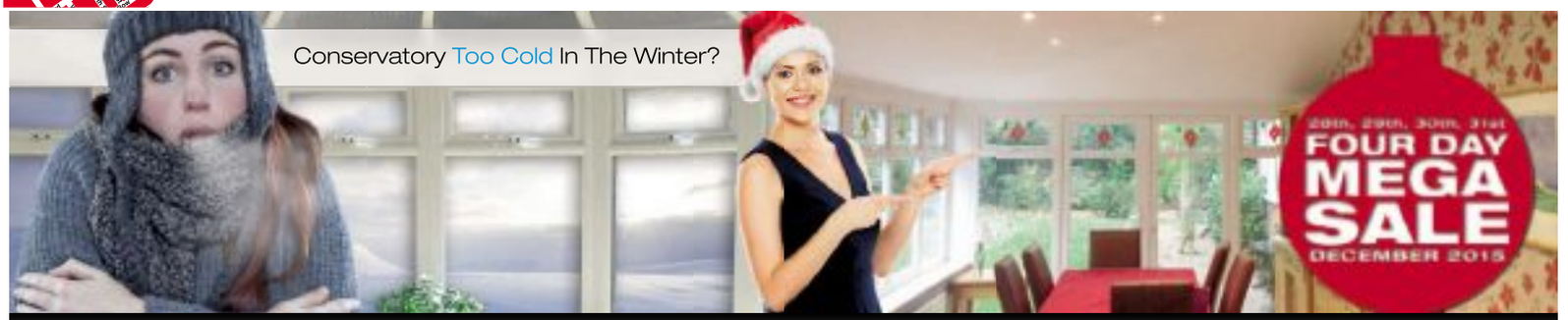
- The heatwave led to calls from our readers for an outdoor swimming pool in the city. This debate was sparked after people continued to swim in the Blue Lagoon in Bletchley despite two deaths in 2014.
- The V8 Marlborough Street was revealed as the most dangerous road in Milton Keynes, with 260 people killed or seriously injured between January 2012 and February 2015, according to figures from Thames Valley Police.
- All hearts melted when farmer Rick Davies proposed to his girlfriend Diana Cull by ploughing the words into a field near Olney before taking her on a small aeroplane and taking to the skies to pop the question.
- A mother-of-four had her life saved by a stranger when she had a cardiac arrest in her husband's car. Carmen Green owes her life to passer-by Justin Crook who was a trained first aider with St John Ambulance in Olney.

July: Carmen Green thanked Justin Crook for saving her life

AUGUST

- A group of walkers was stunned to find an albino wallaby casually grazing in a cornfield between Stoke Wood and Salcey Forest. Unfazed by the group, the wallaby posed for pictures and nibbled on some leaves before hopping away.
- Twelve-year-old Charlie Bowditch is believed to have been Milton Keynes' youngest entrepreneur after selling cold drinks and snacks to office workers on Midsummer Boulevard.

July: People continued to swim in the Blue Lagoon at Bletchley despite two deaths in 2014



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Review of the year: 2015

For three days, the aspiring salesman from Oldbrook proved popular with customers with his polite manner, smart suit and selling technique.

- The city's senior coroner called for a review into the safety of the M1 after a 35-year-old woman died. It followed four serious crashes taking place near J14 of the motorway in just three days.
- A 12-year-old boy said he thought he was 'going to die' after he was knocked over in a hit-and-run accident. Michael Jones was rushed to Milton Keynes University Hospital after being hit by an off-road scrambler motorbike in a field off Lammas, Beanhill. He had surgery on his left leg and was released from hospital the next day on crutches.

August: Charlie Bowditch, 12, showed entrepreneurial flair

SEPTEMBER

- Dove Grohl and the rest of the Foo Fighters arrived at The National Bowl for two incredible nights of rock music in front of sell-out crowds. Grohl performed on a throne made up of guitars, to protect a leg he had broken earlier on in the tour.
- The first of three driverless pods was introduced to the public for the first time and residents got to see it in action on the pavements. More are expected to be trialled in the coming year.
- The maternity ward of Milton Keynes University Hospital was criticised by coroner Tom Osborne for a 'lack of leadership' after it was found there was a 'missed opportunity' to save the life of one-day-old Ethan Johnson. It was the first of a number of baby deaths reported to the coroner.
- MK NEWS exclusively revealed plans by MK Council to shrink hundreds of parking spaces in order to create more bays for city centre employees. The plans were dropped in December.

■ Continued on next page

August: An albino wallaby posed for photographs

VETSAVERS

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2015: Review of the year

■ Continued from previous page

OCTOBER

- A Vital Signs report revealed that homelessness had quadrupled in Milton Keynes over the past year. An MK NEWS investigation also found that Milton Keynes Council had built 6,648 houses from 2011 to 2014, hundreds less than its target of 7,365 and 23 per cent of that housing was affordable, seven per cent less than the Government recommendation.
- The Rugby World Cup came to Milton Keynes and the attendance for the Fiji v Uruguay game smashed the stadiummk record. Prince Harry came to the first of the three games as fans from around the globe descended on Milton Keynes.

October: Prince Harry and the Rugby World Cup came to the city

October: Alien Uncovered appeared on the X Factor

- Tracey Browne, 50, said she was too terrified to leave her own home after a biker swore at her and verbally abused her for being disabled.
- The band Alien Uncovered featuring Bletchley's Natalie Kassanga, who we tipped for stardom in our Top Talent competition seven years ago, appeared on the X Factor, but unfortunately they were voted out of the show in the first week.

NOVEMBER

- A gang carried out a smash-and-grab burglary at Fraser Hart jewellery shop in Silbury Arcade at the centre:mk. The thieves smashed the windows and stole about £650,000 worth of goods.
- Staff at Milton Keynes University Hospital were confirmed as one of five winners of the Do The Strictly Competition for BBC show Strictly Come Dancing. The group won free tickets to a live show in Blackpool later that month.
- Serial sex offender Malcolm Millman was cap-

MKNEWS Coach Holidays

Lindisfarne & The Alnwick Garden

Explore the beautiful kingdom of Northumbria!
Departing 3 June & 2 September 2016

This wonderful break includes a visit to the Duchess of Northumberland's delightfully restored Alnwick Garden, with its Grand Cascade, Poison Garden and extraordinary Tree House, as well as a journey along Northumbria's stunning Heritage Coastline, the highlight of which is mystical Lindisfarne, the Holy Island Cradle of English Christianity.

Our price includes

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- Visits to York, Bamburgh and Lindisfarne
- The services of a tour manager

*Book by 29 February 2016. Please quote code 3MGKU9. £10 reduction is off the price shown above. Offer may be withdrawn at any time.

Eden & the Lost Gardens of Heligan

Celebrating 15 years of the Eden Project
Departing 13 May & 9 September 2016

This hugely popular break combines visits to the ever-changing Eden Project which celebrates its 15th birthday in 2016, with the Lost Gardens of Heligan.

Our price includes

- Entrance to the Lost Gardens of Heligan
- Eden Project admission
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- A visit to Wells, the smallest city in England
- Three nights' half-board hotel accommodation in the Torquay area, including entertainment on one evening
- Coach travel from the local area
- Escorted by a friendly tour manager

*Book by 29 February 2016. Please quote code 3MGKU9. £10 reduction is off the price shown above. Offer may be withdrawn at any time.

Portmeirion & Welsh Mountain Steam

Departing 6 May, 15 July & 7 October 2016

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Our price includes

- Return coach travel
- Three nights' dinner, bed and English breakfast accommodation at the Westminster Hotel, Rhyl
- Entrance to Portmeirion
- Single journeys on the Conwy Valley and Ffestiniog Railways
- The services of a tour manager

*Book by 29 February 2016. Please quote code 3MGKU9. £10 reduction is off the price shown above. Offer may be withdrawn at any time.

Beamish & the North York Moors Railway

Departing 24 June & 28 October 2016

Travel on the nostalgic steam-hauled North York Moors railway featured in TV's Heartbeat series, explore the award-winning Beamish Open Air Museum where the past really comes to life with costumed staff and old fashioned trams linking the various attractions, and enjoy some sea air in delightful Whitby.

Our price includes

- Return coach travel from the local area
- Three nights' dinner, bed and English breakfast accommodation at the St George's Hotel, Darlington (or similar)
- Entrance to Beamish
- A ride on the North York Moors Railway
- Visits to Whitby, Harrogate and Richmond
- The services of a tour manager

*Book by 29 February 2016. Please quote code 3MGKU9. £10 reduction is off the price shown above. Offer may be withdrawn at any time.

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ABTA The Travel Association

Review of the year: 2015

tured in Blackpool after nearly two weeks on the run. Millman had escaped Chadwick Lodge, Eaglestone, after being allowed to go on unsupervised day release.

- MK Dons chairman Pete Winkelman was awarded the Freedom of the Borough of Milton Keynes – the highest award that can be bestowed by Milton Keynes Council.

DECEMBER

- A new record was set in MK NEWS and OneMK's Christmas Selection Box Appeal after a whopping 1,250 boxes were collected for the charity Emily's Star, smashing last year's total of 833.
- A mysterious gambler gave away £1,000 to charity, families and passersby after a big win at The Casino MK. The man, later identified as Lee Connell, 23, got into the Christmas spirit after winning more than £2,000 on roulette.
- MK Council announced a bicycle hire scheme based on London's Boris Bikes will arrive in the city in spring.

The scheme is not yet finalised, but it is thought there will be around 500 bikes and 60 docking stations, making it the second largest of its kind outside London.

- Becky West – a 20-year-old mum – was left too terrified to leave her home after dark, after two men punched her to the ground in a violent robbery in Stacey Bushes.

November: Staff at Milton Keynes University Hospital were one of five winners in the Do The Strictly Competition

November: Smash-and-grab raiders targeted Fraser Hart in the centre:mk and stole thousands of pounds worth of jewellery

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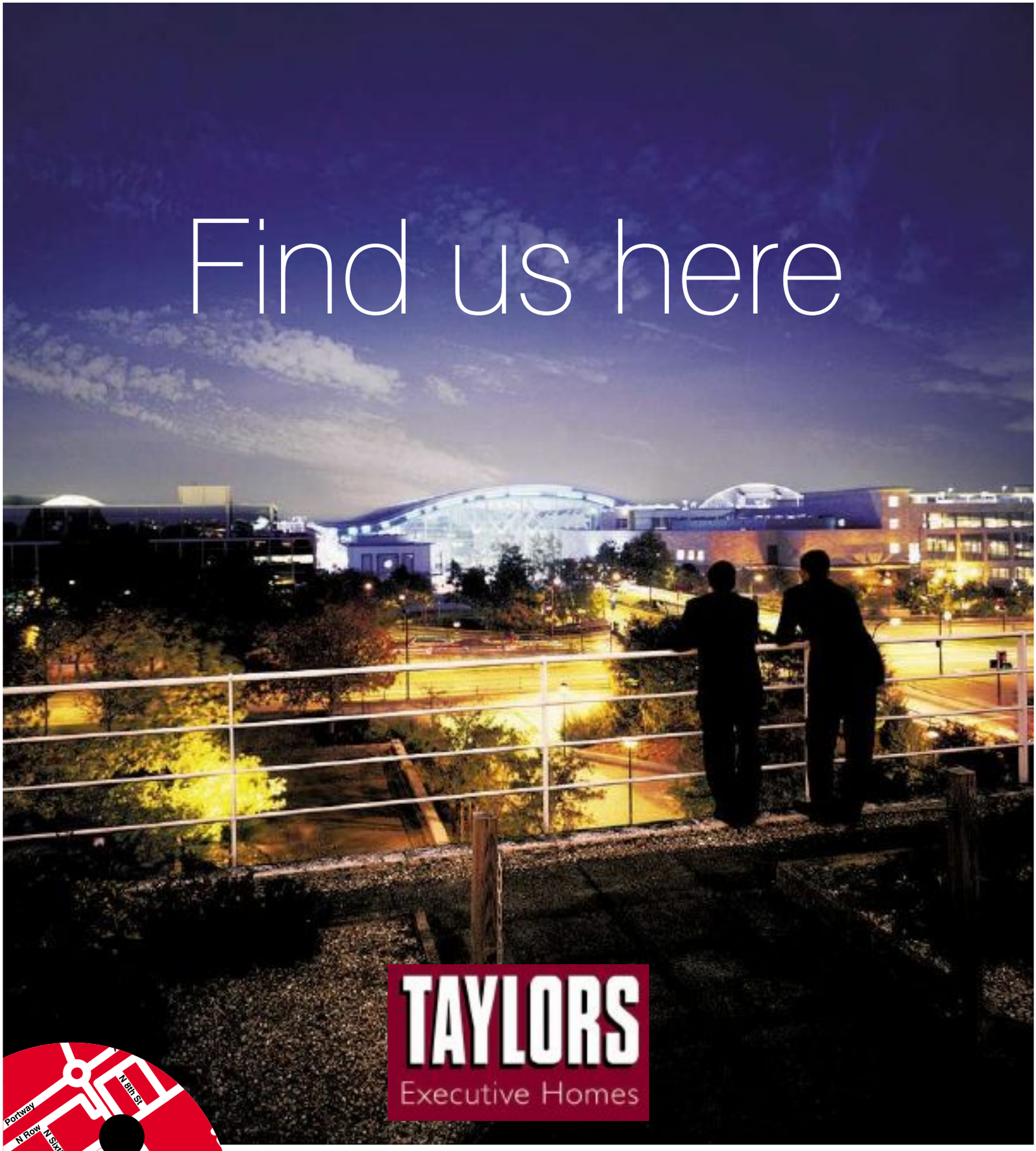

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GENIE OF THE LAMP

Bake Off winner's first taste of panto

GREAT British Bake Off winner Nadiya Hussein is looking forward to seeing her first pantomime when she sits down to watch Aladdin at Milton Keynes Theatre in the New Year.

The 30-year-old champion moved to Grange Farm about six weeks ago with her husband Abdal and children Musa, nine, Dawud, eight, and five-year-old Maryam.

Nadiya is particularly looking forward to seeing former Dallas actor Priscilla Presley in action – although her husband is more excited at seeing pop star Ben Adams!

Nadiya met both back stage, as well as the rest of the cast, including Kev Orkian, Gary Wilmot and Wayne Sleep, when she was presented with tickets to see the show.

Nadiya told MK NEWS: "This will be my first pantomime, I haven't been to one before.

"I have been to theatres before and when you look at the stage from your seat it seems quite small, but they're so much bigger when you go behind the stage and realise how many layers there are. It's a bit like Pandora's Box.

"My husband was really impressed that it has Ben Adams from A1 in it, but I'm looking forward to seeing Priscilla Presley – she's actually touched Elvis."

Nadiya and the family moved to MK after Abdal promised to sell their old house if she won the Bake Off.

She said: "There's so much green space and open places.

"It felt like the right place to move – we had a load of pins on a map and they all seemed to point to MK.

"We lived in Leeds before and it was a lot louder and the boys are finding it hard to sleep at night without noises like boy racers or ambulance sirens.

"They keep saying there's no noise – and I keep telling them that's a good thing."

A Life in the Day – the Princess Diaries (cont)

ALADDIN thought that the Virtual Reality head thing was a beaut present.

He spent most of Xmas day with it on, which was amazing because he was obviously loving it but – and it's a big but – it meant that he didn't see much of me in my flashing, Christmas jumper.

And it had a real ruby for Rudolph's nose and real flashing diamonds for the snowflakes and one huge gold star on top of the tree!

Still, I can forgive him all that because he did give me a pretty amaze-balls gift in return.

He took me for a ride on his – wait for it – Magic Carpet! It was awesome!

He's got a licence and everything so we could even go up the M1. But get this: we flew above the traffic! Cars and stuff were all in a queue and we were like, hovering above it. It was just like that old movie Back to the Future. It was mega awesome!

Catch 'relaxed' performance at MK Theatre

LIVE theatre is something special. If the show you're watching takes you into another world and makes you forget about everything, then you become part of a magical journey that's like nothing else you will experience.

Everybody should have that chance. Which is why, during the run of Aladdin, the performance schedule has so far included a British sign language interpreted and an audio described show.

On January 6, at 2.30pm, there'll be a welcoming, autism-friendly, 'relaxed' performance for children and adults, while on January 8, at 7pm, a captioned performance will enable everyone to follow all the fun and catch all the silly jokes regardless of any hearing impairment.

More details can be found at www.onemk.co.uk

Competition winners

AFTER more than 100 entries, the four lucky MK NEWS readers to win tickets to see Aladdin can be announced.

Kelly Swift, Laura Dillon, Christina Sturges and Emma Katia Sutcliffe have all won a family ticket for two adults and two children.

The winning tickets are for the Thursday, January 7 show, which starts a little earlier at 7pm.

The panto ends in just over a week, so make sure you book tickets before it's too late at www.atgtickets.com

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MKlife

your guide to leisure in your city

Leisure or events news? e-mail **editor@mk-news.co.uk** phone **01908 689595**

Revving up for town's vintage car and motorbike display

VINTAGE cars and motorcycles will be flocking to Stony Stratford to line the streets on New Year's Day.

One of the highlights of the day could be the planned 'minute's noise' that will be held at noon to mark the memory of Lord Montagu of Beaulieu – the founder of the British Motor Museum – who passed away in August 2015.

The Market Square will open to pre-war cars and motorcycles from 10.30am, while classic cars will gather in Cofferidge Close and the High Street.

There will be awards in the pre-war section for the oldest car, vehicle furthest driven to the event, the judges' take home car and finally the judges' take home motorcycle.

Vehicles and spectators usually arrive throughout the morning and early afternoon to make the most of the free chance to see a wide array of vintage cars and motorcycles.

Those wishing to display their vehicles will be asked for a voluntary donation of about £5 per vehicle, which will be donated to Willen Hospice, and to fill out a vehicle information card.

Enough Said!

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vampiresrock

IF YOU are a fan of rock 'n' roll then Milton Keynes Theatre is the place for you on Thursday, January 14.

And if you like the supernatural then that would be even better!

Vampires Rock: The Ghost Train stars Steve Steinman, playing Barron Von Rockula, who has to flee his club with vampires. They take refuge in an abandoned ghost train where they vow to revamp it and take anyone who goes on the ride to rock 'n' roll hell.

Tickets cost between £27.40 and £29.40 for the show, which starts at 7.30pm. Visit www.atgtickets.com

getjamming

THE Jam Movement will once again be taking to the stage at The Craufurd Arms in Wolverton on Friday, January 15.

A tribute to the English mod band from the 70s and 80s, the trio will perform classics from Paul Weller and co, as well as other popular hits.

Tickets for the gig, which starts at 7.30pm, cost £8 in advance or £10 on the door. Entry is open to all over the age of 14.

For more information and to buy tickets, visit www.thecraufurdarms.com or contact 01908 313864.

playdate

IF THE kids are running mad around the house with all their new toys from Santa this Christmas, why not get your little monkeys tired out by taking them to some of the indoor play centres in Milton Keynes?

360 Play and Safari MK are both open over the Christmas period and into 2016.

With lots of different activity rooms between them, there is something for all ages and some nice cafes for the parents to have a well-deserved sit down!

360 Play in Knowlhill is open on Sunday to Thursday from 9.30am to 5.30pm and Friday and Saturday from 9.30am until 6pm.

It's also open on New Year's Eve from 9.30am until 4pm, but is closed on New Year's Day. Entry for adults costs £3 and for children, depending on their age, between £4.25 and £5.25.

Safari MK in Kiln Farm is open daily from 9.30am to 6pm and adults are charged £1.75 and children between £5.95 and £7.95.

getarty

HEAD along to MK Gallery with the family – and create art together in the first Saturday Studio of the New Year.

With the first theme being playgrounds, you can imagine your own of the future and make your own game. You'll also hop, skip and jump between different creative-making stations in an interactive arty playground with artist Sophie Bennet.

The Saturday Studio takes place from 1-3pm on January 9. Tickets cost £1 – which can be paid on the door – but due to the popularity of the event places have to be booked in advance at www.mkgallery.org

MKlife

online
the latest leisure news
onemk.co.uk/whatson/entertainment

The Stables | Columnists | Out and about

worldtravel

DON'T miss the chance to see New International Encounter's acclaimed stage adaptation of Jules Verne's classic adventure story Around the World in 80 Days.

Join Phileas Fogg and his faithful servant Passepartout in their audacious plan to navigate the globe in just 80 days.

With only a bag full of money, a pocket watch and a wager to win, Fogg sets out on the most celebrated literary journey of all time.

The show takes place until January 2 at The Stables in Wavendon.

Tickets are still available for the New Year and are available to buy at www.stables.org or by calling the box office on 01908 280800.

JAMES Frost, managing director of Frosts Garden Centre in Woburn Sands tells MK LIFE readers what to do in the garden in the New Year

THE start of the year is a good time for planning your garden, from seeds to summer flowering bulbs.

Seed potatoes and onion sets will be available this month, if you want to have the best selection to plant in your garden.

Outdoor fruit plants are dormant and should be ready to be pruned.

This should be completed by the end of the month, with the exception of stone fruit such as cherries, peaches and nectarines, which are left until June.

Rhubarb crowns are available to buy now and should be planted in ground that is well prepared with plenty of organic matter.

Deciduous trees and shrubs (those that drop their leaves) are in a dormant state and can be pruned anytime in the next six weeks, along with one of our most popular climbers, the Wisteria.

The wisteria needs to have all of the growth it has made since the summer cut back to within three to four buds of where it started to grow, thereby creating flowering wood.

Sweet peas can be sown in deep pots now to give you plenty of colour and scent this coming summer.

woodwalk

THE first in a series of new Tree Tots sessions will take place in Howe Park Wood on January 7.

Parents and toddlers can go for a toddle around the park followed by a Nature Play session.

The sessions – which are specifically designed for pre-school children and their parents or carers – will vary according to the weather and season, but as much of the session as possible will be outside.

There is a maximum of three children per adult, with prices listed as £3 for the first child, siblings are £2 and it is free for those under 12 months. The age range is under 5s and booking is required at www.theparkstrust.com

newhobby

IF YOU'RE looking for a new hobby to take up in the New Year, Milton Keynes Arts Centre offers a programme of weekend and 10-week artist-led courses for all ages and abilities within their specialist studios.

Courses are available – whether introductory or expert – for hobbies such as calligraphy, ceramics, drawing, jewellery, life drawing, painting, printing and photography.

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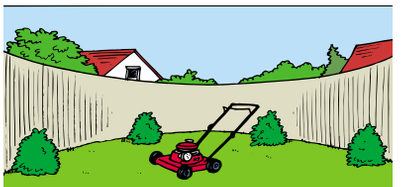

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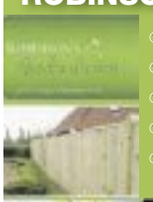

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Public Notices

THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF MILTON KEYNES (VARIOUS ROADS AND FOOTPATHS IN TWO MILE ASH, BRADWELL, NEW BRADWELL, BLETCHLEY, CENTRAL MILTON KEYNES, NEATH HILL, WOLVERTON, CASTLETHORPE AND OLNEY) (TEMPORARY CLOSURE) ORDER 2016

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Council of the Borough of Milton Keynes has on 29th December 2015 made an Order under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit pedestrians and vehicles from entering, waiting or proceeding along the following lengths of road or footpaths in order to allow maintenance and repair works to be carried out on the highway:-

ROAD CLOSURES:-

4th January 2016

- **Clay Hill, Two Mile Ash** – Outside the local store situated between its two junctions with The High Street;
  Whilst the above length of road is closed the alternative route will be via Clay Hill, Shorham Rise, Leafield Rise, Cornhill, Dansteed Way and The High Street (and vice versa).
- **Thompson Street, New Bradwell** – Between it's junctions with North Street and Harwood Street.
  Whilst the above length of road is closed the alternative route will be via North Street, Bradwell Road and Harwood Street (and vice versa).
- **Church Street, New Bradwell** – Between it's junctions with Newport Road and High Street.
  Whilst the above length of road is closed the alternative route will be via Newport Road, St James Street, High Street and Glyn Street (and visa versa).
- **Pinewood Drive, Bletchley** – Between its junctions with Oakwood Drive and Laburnum Grove.
  Whilst the above length of road is closed the alternative route will be via Laburnum Grove and Oakwood Drive.
- **Lower Ninth Street, Central Milton Keynes** – (Northbound carriageway) Its entire length.
  Whilst the above length of road is closed the alternative route will be via Avebury Boulevard, Secklow Gate and Midsummer Boulevard.

5th January 2016

- **Sycamore Avenue, Bletchley** – Between its junctions with Walnut Drive and Hawthorn Avenue.
  Whilst the above length of road is closed the alternative route will be via Walnut Drive, Maple Grove and Hawthorn Avenue (and vice versa).
- **Colley Hill, Bradwell** – Between its junctions with Monks Way and Loughton Road.
  Whilst the above length of road is closed the alternative route will be via Rawlins Road, V6 Grafton Street and H3 Monks Way.
- **Simpson Road, Bletchley** – Between its junctions with Staple Hall Road and Watling Street.
  Whilst the above length of road is closed the alternative route will be via Staple Hall Road, Bilton Road and Watling Street (and vice versa).
- **Clarke Road, Bletchley** – Both of its junctions with Dawson Road. **Both junctions will not be closed simultaneously**.
  Whilst the above lengths of road are closed the alternative route will be via the open Dawson Road and the junction to Clarke Road that is open at the time (and vice versa).

6th January 2016

- **Avebury Boulevard, Central Milton Keynes** – The Access Road linking the eastbound and westbound carriageways situated between Secklow Gate and Lower Twelfth Street.
  Whilst the above length of road is closed the alternative route will be via Avebury Boulevard and the Access Road linking Lower Twelfth Street and the Xscape complex (and vice versa).
- **North Ninth Street, Central Milton Keynes** – The Bell mouth entrance linking Silbury Boulevard with North Ninth Street;
  Whilst the above length of road is closed the alternative route will be Silbury Boulevard, North Eighth Street or North Tenth Street and the access ways adjacent to the westbound carriageway of Silbury Boulevard.

7th January 2016

- **Moon Street, Wolverton** – Between its junctions with Green Lane and Victoria Street.
  Whilst the above length of road is closed the alternative route will be via Green Lane, Stacey Avenue and Victoria Street (and vice versa).
- **Wolverton Road, Castlethorpe** – From Wolverton Road's junction with the unnamed road linking Wolverton Road and Bullington End Road, 90 metres in a south westerly direction and 105 metres in an north easterly direction.
- **Unnamed road linking Wolverton Road and Bullington End Road, Castlethorpe** – From its junction with Wolverton Road to the southern access way to Hanslope Lodge.
  Whilst the two lengths of road above are closed the alternative route will be via Bullington End Road, North Street, Station Road, Yardley Road, A508, Towcester Road, London Road, Queen Eleanor Street, Stratford Road, Haversham Road and Wolverton Road (and vice versa).
- **Weston Road, Olney** – Between its's junctions with Lime Street and A509.
  Whilst the above length of road is closed the alternative route will be via Lime Street and the A509 (and vice versa).

FOOTPATH AND REDWAY CLOSURES:-

5th January 2016

- **Footpath situated between Bramley Road and Dawson Road, Bletchley** – From its junction with the footpath running adjacent to the southbound carriageway of the V7 Saxon Street to its junction with Grove Ash.
  Whilst the above footpath is closed the alternative route will be via the footpath running adjacent to the southbound carriageway of V7 Saxon Street in a south easterly then easterly direction (and vice versa).

6th January 2016

- **St. Monica's Lane, Neath Hill** – Section of redway to the east of St. Monica's School.
  Whilst the above length of redway is closed the alternative route will be via Currier Drive and Glazier Drive (and vice versa).

The above closures will be implemented from the 4th January 2016 on the above dates for a maximum period of 4 hours or until the said works have been completed, whichever is the sooner. Signs will be erected several days in advance to warn motorists and pedestrians of the dates and times when the roads will be closed.

The Council is satisfied that the temporary closure Order is necessary to enable works to be carried out on the highway. The temporary Order will come into effect on 4th January 2016 and will expire on 4th April 2016 and will take effect at times during the above period **only** when maintenance or repair works are required and **only** when indicated by the appropriate traffic signs, which will be erected in advance of any closure.

There will be no exemptions from the provisions of the proposed Order except for controlled access to residential properties and emergency service vehicles on operational duties.

The closure will be clearly signed in accordance with Chapter 8 of the Traffic Signs Manual.

All affected properties will be notified of the forthcoming closures at least one week prior to works taking place.

Any person committing a breach of the order will be liable upon prosecution to such fine as is prescribed by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

30th December 2015

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Skoda Superb is slick with plenty of space – Page 37

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Introducing The New 2016 Infiniti Q50 Sports Saloon

The new 2016 Infiniti Q50 sports saloon is being launched with a number of performance and dynamic upgrades that deliver a more empowering and rewarding drive experience. The comprehensive updates include next-generation ride and handling technologies and all-new advanced turbocharged V6 powertrains.

Making its debut on an Infiniti is the company's second-generation Direct Adaptive Steering™, comprehensively modified from the ground-breaking first-generation system. The standard steering mode now offers advanced levels of steering feel and feedback – more akin to that of a conventional steering system.

The new Q50 also features Infiniti's Dynamic Digital Suspension (DDS) for the first time, which gives the sports saloon an optimal blend of ride comfort and class-leading response and agility. For those drivers looking for a blend of dynamic settings tailored to their own particular requirements and tastes, the Q50's Drive Mode Selector (DMS) can be augmented with a 'Personal' mode, which permits a bespoke mix of engine, suspension and steering characteristics.

Five powertrain options are offered with the Infiniti Q50, and for the 2016 model these include an advanced, all-new 3.0-litre V6 twin-turbo gasoline engine with direct injection. This new 'VR30' engine in Europe is available in only one state of tune: 400 hp – (300 hp also available for Middle East); developed to provide an ideal mix of drivability, efficiency and performance.

The Q50 was developed from the outset to showcase Infiniti's daring design, dynamic performance and class-leading technologies within the sports saloon segment. Now in its third year, Q50 global sales between January and October 2015 reached almost 50,000 cars – representing a 65% increase compared to the same period in 2014.

A range of new and innovative ride and handling technologies deliver on the promise of the Q50's daring design, and install confidence in all driving conditions.

Infiniti Q50 models equipped with the new 3.0-litre V6 twin-turbo engine, or the hybrid powertrain, come available with the second-generation Infiniti **Direct Adaptive Steering™**, which has undergone significant re-tuning to greatly enhance steering feel and feedback.

The changes to DAS – the world's first digital steering system – have been made following extensive consultation with existing Q50 customers around the world and over 625,000 miles of testing.

For the new second generation Direct Adaptive Steering, engineers have optimized the control logic to improve feedback from the road. They have fine-tuned parameters so that the default setting better mimics the feeling drivers are used to from conventional systems.

2.0-litre petrol and 2.2-litre diesel models are equipped with a speed-sensitive hydraulic electronic rack-and-pinion power steering system as standard. This increases assistance at low speeds and reduces assistance for enhanced feel and response at higher speeds.

2016 Q50 Sport models with 3.0 twin turbo powertrain are upgraded with **Dynamic Digital Suspension (DDS)** for the first time, which offers enhanced ride comfort with class-leading response and agility. The shift from a comfort-biased ride to enhanced dynamic response can be made when the driver places the electronically adjustable shock absorbers in either Sport or Sport+ modes (adjusted via the Drive Mode Selector), providing firmer damping control for more agile handling. While in these modes, the suspension is constantly adjusting to provide ideal performance and a flat ride.

The hybrid powertrain is designed to put performance first, while bringing significant benefits for fuel efficiency. It takes full advantage of the electric motor's instant torque for exceptional acceleration and, in combination with the 3.5-litre V6, provides an energetic feel under all driving conditions.

All Q50 powertrains are matched to an advanced seven-speed electronically controlled automatic transmission with manual shift mode and steering column-mounted magnesium paddle shifters.

Adaptive Shift Control enhances gear selection by using a lateral acceleration sensor to detect changes in the road, such as hills and turns. Sport mode allows the driver to select a more aggressive shift pattern with automatic up- and down-shifting at higher rpm. The combined effect is for any driver to enjoy quick, smooth shifts and gear choices that are appropriate to both the road and the desired driving style. The new Infiniti Q50 will go on sale in selected markets later in 2016.

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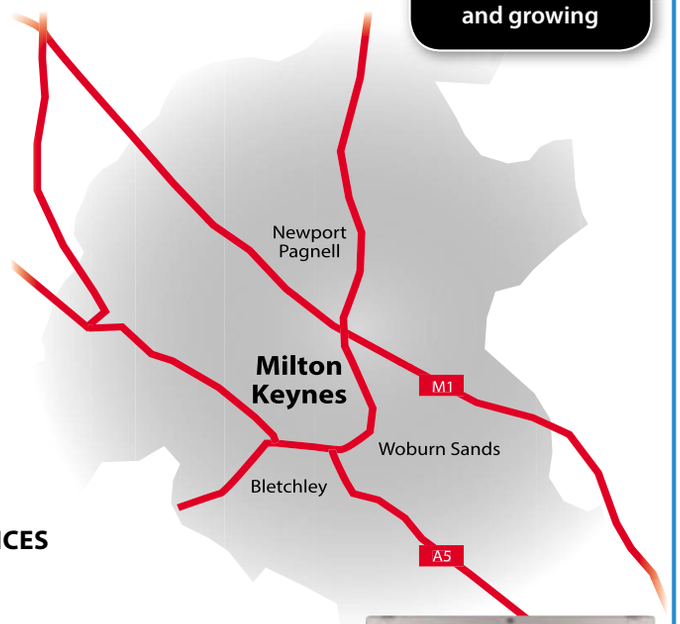

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Skoda Superb

NAME CZECH

Skoda's Superb gets a smart new suit, a slicker chassis and better engines. The weird twin-opening hatch is replaced by a more conventional rear aperture but there's still more space inside than in some London starter homes and the pricing remains sensible.

Skoda's been dipping into the almost unlimited largesse of the Volkswagen Group to bring us some mouthwatering engine and gearbox combinations with this latest Superb. There was a time when Skoda was just given the cast-offs, the engines that were in the final years of production, while Audi and VW got the shiny new technology. That's not the case any longer, with the Superb getting petrol engines like the excellent downsized 124bhp 1.4 and even a monster 2.0-litre turbo with 276bhp, four-wheel drive and a dual-clutch DSG gearbox. In between those extremes, petrol folk get to choose between a 148bhp version of the 1.4-litre TSI unit and a DSG-only 218bhp 2.0-litre TSI variant.

Go diesel and you're looking at 148bhp and 187bhp 2.0-litre TDI engines with six-speed manual or DSG 'boxes. Both of these engines are also available with all-wheel drive options. Dealers will also take orders for a super-frugal 118bhp 1.6-litre GreenLine version emitting just 96g/km of CO2. A plug-in hybrid like the VW Passat GTE is also on the cards. Adaptive dampers are an option and the adaptive drive mode can also adjust the weighting of the electrically-assisted steering. The torsional rigidity of the chassis increases by 12%, yet weight is down by 75kg for a body-in-white, due to the strategic use of high-tensile steels where required. The clever MQB chassis, which underpins the Volkswagen Golf and Passat, is used here in its longest guise to date.

After the bold exterior, the interior feels a bit safe in its aesthetics, but there can be few complaints about either quality or space. At 4,861mm long and 1,864mm wide, the third generation Superb is 28mm longer and 47mm wider than its predecessor, while the 2,841mm wheelbase is 80mm longer, allowing for greater space within the passenger compartment. Rear legroom is frankly ridiculous. It's vast in the back. The boot is 30-litres larger than before, at 625-litres, expanding to a cavernous 1,760-litres with the rear seat backs folded. If this still isn't big enough, you'll need to talk to your dealer about the estate version.

The Skoda Superb looks the part, making it ever easier to convince those whose car views are at least a decade out of date that a Skoda deserves a place on your shortlist if you're in the market for a medium-ranger. Compared to a Mondeo or a Mazda6, a Superb represents a very different take on the theme. The Mazda is a pin-sharp drive, the Mondeo tries to blend size and sprightliness, but the Superb makes no real pretence at sportiness, instead offering a reassuring heft and vault-like build quality.

Above all, the Superb delivers space, and that's a quality you can never really have too much of in this corner of the market. Why? Because it's the one attribute where more mainstream marques can really land a telling blow on the premium badges. A BMW 3 Series or a Jaguar XE is never going to be able to offer as much space inside as a Skoda Superb. It's just not remotely viable, so for those who need something cut from more generous cloth, give the Skoda the once over. It's slick, presentable and, yes, simply clever.

FACTS AT A GLANCE

CAR: Skoda Superb
PRICES: £18,640 - £35,940
INSURANCE GROUPS: 12E-28E
CO2 EMISSIONS: 95-191 g/km
PERFORMANCE: [1.4 TSI 125] Top Speed 129mph / 0-62 9.9s
FUEL CONSUMPTION: [2.0 TDI 190] (combined) 67.3 mpg
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on the road

New Mitsubishi L200 What Van? Magazine's Big Winner

The Mitsubishi L200 is the 2016 What Van? Light Commercial Vehicle of the Year. The award, from the UK's leading LCV magazine, rewards the new pick-up's massive improvement in interior quality, drive and, crucially for light commercial vehicle operators, efficiency. Mitsubishi collected the coveted trophy at the exclusive What Van? Awards luncheon, held in partnership with fuel card giant Allstar at The Brewery in London on Tuesday 15 December. The L200 also collected the Pick-up of the Year award, while Mitsubishi completed a hat-trick with the Outlander 4Work PHEV winning the What Van? Green Award.

The New SLC – New Name, New Dynamic

In March 2016, 20 years on from the birth of its segment, the archetypal compact roadster is to be relaunched with a new name – SLC – significantly optimised technology and an enhanced look. The name change acknowledges the traditionally close relationship with the C-Class, from which much of the roadster's technology is derived. There are new additions to the model line-up – the sporty top-of-the-line Mercedes-AMG SLC 43 and the entry-level SLC 180. In visual terms, stand-out features include the standard-fit diamond radiator grille and the LED Intelligent Light System (optional extra). Prices will be announced when the SLC is available to order in mid-January 2016, with first cars arriving in showrooms from April 2016.

Hyundai Motor's New Alternative-Fuel Ioniq

A new rendering of Hyundai Motor's all-new IONIQ hints at how the innovative, alternative-fuel compact vehicle, which is due for launch in early 2016, will combine head-turning good looks with class-leading aerodynamic performance. Hyundai Motor has confirmed that the IONIQ will be the world's first car to offer a choice of three efficient and ultra-low-emission powertrains: full electric, plug-in gasoline / electric hybrid, or gasoline / electric hybrid. With a sleek, coupe-like silhouette and numerous eye-catching details, its confident design is a match for its bold environmental credentials

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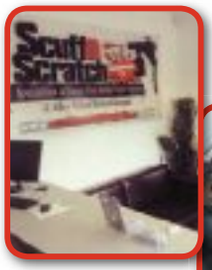

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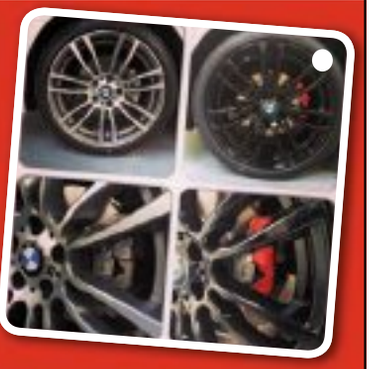

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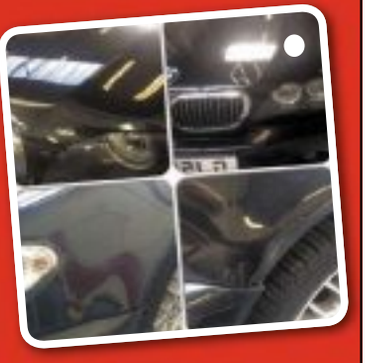

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on the road

Ford Commercial Sales Sail Through 100,000 for 2015

Ford has sold more than 100,000 commercial vehicles (CV) for the year-to-date, the first time sales have passed six figures in a full year since 1989. Ford CV sales for November were at the highest-ever level for more than 25 years, and more than double those of its nearest rival. Ford is on track to record its highest-ever commercial vehicle sales volume for 2015, following a record year in 1989 at 104,721 sales. 2015 marks the Ford Transit's 50th year of market leadership, and the first full year of sales for the expanded Ford Transit range since the Transit Courier was launched in mid-2014.

Five Stars For Mercedes-Benz GLC

The Mercedes-Benz GLC has achieved the top score in the Euro NCAP rating. The new mid-size SUV has received five stars, continuing the Mercedes-Benz success story in impressive style. The GLC has achieved five stars for occupant safety, child safety, pedestrian protection and its assistance systems – giving it the maximum score in the Euro NCAP rating. The basis for this outstanding result is the perfect interaction between active and

passive safety: the combination of a highly rigid safety passenger cell, highly effective restraint systems, the latest driver assistance systems and other measures leads to first-class test results.

JAGUAR LAND ROVER CONFIRMS NEW SLOVAKIAN FACTORY

Jaguar Land Rover has confirmed that it will be the first British carmaker to open a manufacturing facility in Slovakia. The announcement follows an agreement between the company and the Government of the Slovak Republic to build a new plant in the city of Nitra. The new world-class £1 billion premium manufacturing facility will eventually employ around 2,800 people. The announcement follows Jaguar Land Rover's recent confirmation to double its investment in its engine plant in the UK to almost £1 billion – the largest injection into a new British manufacturing plant in decades creating several hundred new jobs

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ICE HOCKEY

Double joy for Lightning in Phantoms derby clash

BY PAUL BROOKMAN
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MK LIGHTNING closed the gap at the top of the English Premier League to three points with a brace of well-deserved victories against closest rivals Peterborough Phantoms over the Christmas weekend.

Phantoms, who top the table, went into the weekend with a seven point advantage over Lightning but the pair of wins – both by 4-2 scorelines – have thrown the title race wide open again.

Lightning have played three games more than the Cambridgeshire outfit but with just under half the season to come the championship race is not over, with Basingstoke Bison in second spot also looking strong contenders.

Just as importantly, the wins will serve as morale boosters for the upcoming English Premier League Cup semi-final clashes with Phantoms at home on January 13 and away a week later.

Between now and then there's also the matter of another away league encounter with Slava Koulikov's side on January 10.

Games between Lightning and Phantoms are always fiercely fought affairs and both weekend meetings met with expectations – each not decided until the latter stages.

Coach Pete Russell made changes for the Boxing Day clash with Leigh Jamieson switching back to defence, which gave Lightning a more assured look.

Lightning entertain Telford Tigers on New Year's Day before travelling to Sheffield Steeldogs on Saturday.

Phantom successes: MK Lightning beat local rivals Peterborough Phantoms twice on Boxing Day and on Sunday
Pic by Tony Sargent

DONS

Maynard keen to repay faith

DONS striker Nicky Maynard wants to repay the faith that manager Karl Robinson put in him by scoring the goals that can keep the club in the Championship.

Maynard did not have a football club at the start of the season after he was released by Cardiff City, who Dons beat 2-1 on Boxing Day after the 29-year-old opened the scoring.

He trained with Nottingham Forest and Blackburn Rovers, but it was Dons who gave Maynard his chance, and the striker is now keen to bag as many goals as possible for the club.

"The gaffer rang me and said he knew what I was capable of," said Maynard.

"That's the kind of thing I needed from a manager – someone who wanted me and knowing I'll be playing.

"I'd like to think I can repay the faith he has had in me. I respect him highly and I think he respects me.

"It makes you want to run through brick walls for him and I'm just thankful he has given me the chance."

FIXTURES

SAT LEEDS (A)
JAN 9 NORTHAMPTON (A) FAC3
JAN 12 BURNLEY (H)
JAN 16 READING (H)
JAN 23 BOLTON (A)

Performances are key for Spence

DONS full back Jordan Spence isn't too worried about the side's away form and believes that if the team performs, the results will follow.

Dons went down to a 1-0 defeat at Birmingham City on Monday, and the team have won just once on the road all season, against Rotherham United on the opening day of the campaign.

But Spence is confident that the team can turn that form around.

"If you look at results we haven't got as many points on the road as we'd have liked to but I'd like to concentrate on performance and we're not a side that go away from home and play in a negative fashion," said Spence.

"That's not reaped any rewards yet but let's hope in the second half of the season that we can improve that and overall the home and away form will hopefully be good.

"Consistency is key and consistency of performance is key because when you do that results will sort themselves out.

"We've got to address it going away to Leeds on Saturday."

The Birmingham game represented two in the space of three days for Dons after their impressive victory over Cardiff City on Boxing Day and Spence says it can have a psychological affect on the players to play a lot of games in such quick succession.

"It's a quick turnaround and I think that would be difficult if we were doing it every single week but from a personal perspective I find it OK.

"I think it's more draining mentally because with a day's rest you have to analyse and put away the last game and then prepare and get a lot of information on board for the next one but that's the way it is and it's the same for everyone."

Away day blues: Jordan Spence believes that good performances will yield good results for Dons away from home at some point this season

Town's title challenge is going strong

NEWPORT Pagnell Town have moved up to third in the United Counties Premier Division after thrashing Cogenhoe United 4-1 on Monday.

Fazel Koriya put Town ahead but the score was at 1-1 until the 72nd minute when the Swans turned on the style – Greg Ling bagged a brace and Paul Edgeworth scored with a deflected strike.

That followed their Boxing Day 1-1 draw at home to fellow title challengers AFC Kempston Rovers, with Dom Lawless scoring that goal.

Newport Pagnell entertain mid-table Harrowby United this Saturday as they look to close down a seven-point gap to leaders Leicester Nirvana.

In Division One Olney Town beat Buckingham Town 5-4 in a thriller which saw Aaron Murrell bag a hat-trick as they extended their winning run to five matches.

Buckingham drew first blood but William Wright equalised for Olney. Murrell scored his first two goals but Buckingham managed to bring the score back to 3-3 before half time. Murrell completed his hat-trick after 61 minutes before their opponents equalised again, and Josh Sturniolo struck the winner a quarter of an hour before the end of the game.

Olney were due to travel to second from bottom Bugbrooke St Michaels last night, and they take on APBS in the Berks and Bucks Intermediate Cup fourth round on Saturday. Olney are currently ninth in the division on 28 points.

In the Spartan South Midlands Division One, New Bradwell St Peter lost 1-0 at Risborough Rangers.

The Milton Keynes Sunday Football League will resume play on Saturday, January 10, after the Christmas break.

MK Festival of Running to set off from Xscape

VOLUNTEERS are needed for the Milton Keynes Half Marathon and the Festival of Running on Sunday, March 6.

Potential competitors can also put their name forward to take part in the races in March. As well as the half marathon, there is a 20-mile event, a 5km one and a 10km event.

The races begin outside Xscape in Central Milton Keynes and are available for anybody to take part in.

The races are an ideal preparation as build-up races for anybody wanting to take part in the Virgin London Marathon or one of the other big spring marathon races across the country,

The courses are mainly flat, fast and well marshalled to ensure runners get all the assistance needed on the day.

There are four different distances available and the timetable is for the 20-mile race to set off at 9.50am, at 10am the 5km event will set off, 10 minutes after that the 10km race will begin. At 10.45am the half marathon will begin.

For more information on applying to volunteer or take part go to www.mkrun.co.uk.

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Double victory for Lightning over local rivals – page 43

Robinson keen to bring players in when transfer window opens

BY SCOTT KIRK
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DONS' manager Karl Robinson has identified three players he can bring into the club when the January transfer window opens.

Ideally Robinson would like to bring in four players to the squad, who lacked quality against Birmingham City in their 1-0 defeat on Monday.

"Attention turns to the transfer window and we're going to bring players in," he said.

"I want to bring four players in and I know three of them. I'd like to think we can bring them in and they'll make a big difference.

"I can't thank the chairman enough and it's our job to try and find the right ones to suit this football club."

Robinson admitted he was concerned about the club's away form after another defeat at Birmingham. Their only win on the road was at Rotherham United on the opening day of the season.

"We were 100 per cent beaten by the better team and I have nothing to hold on to – we rode our luck," he said.

"We have to be concerned at the away form having not won on the road since Rotherham. We're not getting blown away and we've consistently done enough to get more out of away games than what we have. It's about turning those performances into points – we're all learning."

Dons made six changes for the Birmingham game following their impressive 2-1 victory over Cardiff City on Boxing Day.

Darren Potter was rested, while Antony Kay, Nicky Maynard, Josh Murphy, Rob Hall and Ben Reeves all started on the substitutes' bench.

A rest for Kay signalled a return to action for Joe Walsh, who had been sidelined for months, and he played well after being out injured for so long.

Dons lie 20th in the Championship, one point above the drop zone. Their next game is a trip to Leeds United on Saturday.

■ Performances key for Spence – Page 43

Defeat: Dons lost their eighth away game of the season at Birmingham City on Monday as Jacques Maghoma scored the only goal of the match

Technical Excellence & Lasting Performance

1 Factory applied micro-porous coatings providing maximum protection but minimal maintenance

All of our windows and doors are factory painted prior to assembly, providing complete protection from moisture absorption and maximising longevity. Every product receives a base coat of timber preservative, then a primer coat, followed by two coats of micro-porous paint. You should expect our coatings to last from five to eight years without the need for re-treatment. Should you wish to change the colour of your windows then redecoration is a very simple task as there is no sanding down required. An average window should take about thirty minutes to re-decorate.

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In standard timber systems, paint is prone to cracking at the point where the bead meets the window frame. By rebating the glazing bead over the sash we conceal the joint, which eliminates the problem.

5 Multi-layer timber sections with opposing grains, balances warping and combats twisting

The use of multi-layer timber for windows and doors is long established in Scandinavia and Northern Europe, but very rare in Britain. The multi-layer structure used as standard throughout our range is particularly effective in resisting warping and twisting, as the opposing grains even out natural moisture movement. It is the twisting of timber during wet weather, more than the swelling itself, which causes standard wooden windows and doors to stick.

6 Glazing units almost twice as effective as ordinary double glazing

All of our windows and doors incorporate double-glazed units with enhanced thermally insulating glass, providing an extremely low U-value. We further improve the efficiency of the unit by filling the cavity with argon gas and using low conductivity spacer bars to minimise edge losses. The result is a 1.1 W/m2K centre pane U-value.
This means an 80% increase in energy savings compared to single glazing, and a 45% increase in energy savings compared to ordinary double-glazing.

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